

For Immediate Release

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Sires Celebrates the 40th Earth Day

Washington, D.C.-- Today, Congressman Sires joined his colleagues in the House of Representatives in commemorating the 40th anniversary of Earth Day and its founder, the late Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin with the passage of H.Con.Res. 255. Earth Day is observed every year to recognize the achievements Americans have made to improve our environment. H.Con.Res.255 passed through the House of Representatives on April 21, 2010.

“Since the first Earth Day in 1970, Americans have worked to improve the air we breathe and the water we drink,” stated Congressman Sires. “Four decades later, we have made great strides towards protecting our planet for future generations by making investments in a clean energy economy to create millions of American jobs, lowering energy costs for American families and businesses, while reducing our dependence on foreign oil and our carbon foot print.”

A top priority of the 111th Congress has been tackling tough environmental challenges, such as climate change, through investments in a clean energy economy to wean our nation off of our dangerous dependence on foreign oil and create green American jobs. In particular, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, signed into law last year, made historic investments of more than \$69 billion in clean energy, including investments to modernize the electricity grid to make it more efficient, tax incentives to spur energy savings, and a significant commitment to clean energy research to build the technologies of the future.

Additionally, last June the House of Representatives passed the American Clean Energy and Security Act to require a reduction in the carbon pollution causing climate change from major U.S. sources, as well as additional investments in new clean energy and efficiency technologies, such as wind, solar, and hydro.

“Congress will continue to push forward with a clean energy plan, but the environmental challenges we face can not be solved by laws alone,” expressed Congressman Sires. “That is why it is important on this day for every American to take a moment and recognize the simple things that they can do within their own homes and communities to contribute to a cleaner and healthier planet Earth.”

For a listing of Earth Day activities in your community, please visit <http://www.serve.gov/earthday.asp>

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